

and has an annular upper surface opposed to the annular lower surface of said upper casing, and an annular thrust sliding bearing piece which is made of a synthetic resin, and is interposed between the annular lower surface and the annular upper surface, wherein said lower casing has on a lower surface thereof a spring seat surface for a suspension coil spring, said lower casing includes an annular base portion, an upper cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of an upper surface of the annular base portion and on which the annular upper surface is formed, and a lower cylindrical portion which is integrally formed on a radially substantially central portion of a lower surface of the annular base portion, said lower surface of the annular base portion on a radially outer side of the lower cylindrical portion serving as the spring seat surface, the annular base portion, the upper cylindrical portion, and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities.

The structure of claim 1 enables a light weight, low cost assembly. Moreover it is possible to omit an upper spring seat member made of sheet metal, thus making it possible to eliminate a weight increase ascribable to the upper spring seat member made of sheet metal and a cost increase ascribable to such as the fabrication, coating and assembly of the upper spring seat member made of sheet metal. In addition, it is possible to attain a light weight and low cost undercarriage of the motor vehicle, as a result of the fact that the one end portion of the suspension coil spring can be held by the lower cylindrical portion with respect to the radial direction. Thus, it is possible to prevent the dislocation of the one end portion of the suspension coil spring from the spring seat surface. By sharp contrast, JP '146 does not teach or disclose this structure. For example, JP '146 does not disclose the claimed strut sliding bearing defined above, including the upper cylindrical portion on which the annular upper surface is formed, in

conjunction with the annular base portion, the upper cylindrical portion and the lower cylindrical portion including a plurality of thinning cavities, as set forth in independent claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all the claims are patentable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. PTB-1207-120.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /Paul T. Bowen/
Paul T. Bowen
Reg. No. 38,009

PTB:jck
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100